



## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/830,130	04/21/2004	Thomas Albertson	SYNT-0199	7452
53443	7590	12/02/2008	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP			ARAJ, MICHAEL J	
CIRA CENTRE, 12TH FLOOR				
2929 ARCH STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-2891			3775	
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		12/02/2008	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/830,130	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ALBERTSON ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b> MICHAEL J. ARAJ	<b>Art Unit</b> 3775

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2008.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.      2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10,12-21,23-75,77,79 and 80 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) 49-74 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-10,12,13,16-18,20,21,26,28,45-48,75,77,79 and 80 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) 15,27 and 29-44 is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 October 2007 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
     Paper No./Mail Date 9/8/08.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
     Paper No./Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application  
 6) Other: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **DETAILED ACTION**

##### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 8, 2008 has been entered.

#### ***Drawings***

Figures 5 and 6 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10, 12-21,23-75,77,79 and 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cole et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2002/0091391) in view of Wagner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,391,030).

Cole et al. disclose a reconstruction system comprising a flexible cable (20) having first and second ends, a crimp fitting member (14), at least one locking cannulated threaded screw (150) having a cannulation and at least one reconstruction plate (32) comprised of at least one plate hole, wherein the first end of the cable comprises a crimp fitting member and wherein the crimp fitting member comprises a flat round disk-like head. The crimp fitting member comprises a preinstalled flattened disk-like crimp head having a diameter of from about 2mm to about 10mm and a thickness of from about .1mm to about 4mm and being composed of stainless steel. The crimp head is flat and has an upper and lower surface comprising rounded edges. The first portion of the crimp fitting member comprises a crimp shaft extending perpendicular to the lower surface of the crimp fitting member. (This is considered to be the hole in element 14) The flexible cable is comprised of a single strand wire and is cerclage wire and configured to lock with a bone fastener. The cannulated screw is selected from the group consisting of a locking and a non-locking screw that is at least partially threaded. With regard the statement of intended use and other functional statements, they do not impose any structural limitations on the claims distinguishable over Cole et al. which is capable of being used as claimed if one so desires to do so. *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ

Art Unit: 3775

235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Furthermore, the law of anticipation does not require that the reference "teach" what the subject patent teaches, but rather it is only necessary that the claims under attack "read on" something in the reference. *Kalman v. Kimberly Clark Corp.*, 218 USPQ 781 (CCPA 1983). Furthermore, the manner in which a device is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations. *Ex parte Masham*, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987).

Cole discloses the claimed invention except for the crimp fitting member having a second portion having a crimp head and a hole in the crimp ahead that is perpendicular to the crimp shaft that is extending longitudinally from the second portion. Wagner et al. discloses a first portion of the crimp fitting member having a crimp shaft (44) extending longitudinally from the second portion (45) and being attached to the first end of the flexible cable (10). Also disclosed is a second portion having a crimp head and a hole (26) in the crimp head that is perpendicular to the crimp shaft and adapted to slidably receive the second end of the flexible cable to secure the cable device with bone and to vary the tension of the cable. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to have created the device of Cole et al. with a crimp fitting member that has a hole perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the crimp fitting member in view of Wagner et al., in order to have a more secure device that allows for variable tensioning of the cable system.

Cole also discloses the claimed invention except for the crimp head being of a polygonal shape or the crimp shaft being of a non-circular cross-section and having a kit

with a plurality of crimp fitting members, screws and plates. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the crimp head and shaft in these manners, since applicant has not disclosed that such solve any stated problem or is anything more than one of numerous shapes or configurations a person ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing a forming edge in the heating portion or clamp. In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966). It would have also been obvious to have a kit customized to cater to the preference of a specific surgeon during a specific procedure and in such case may also provide additional equipment preferences of the surgeon. Such an example can be referenced to Vagley (U.S. Patent No. 6,158,437 col. 5, lines 40-50)

With regard to claims 18 and 19 it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to construct the diameters, lengths and angles of the plate holes in the ranges claimed, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 15, 27and 29-44 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-9, 12-13, 16-18, 20, 21, 26, 28, 45-48, 75, 77, 79 and 80 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. See PTO-892 for art cited of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL J. ARAJ whose telephone number is (571)272-5963. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached on 571-272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3775

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael J Araj/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3775

/Eduardo C. Robert/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733